Martin Luther's eschatology, his understanding of the end times, significantly influenced his views on war. Here's a breakdown of the key connections:

- **Sense of Imminent End Times:**
  - Luther lived in a period of great upheaval, with the Reformation, the threat of the Ottoman Empire, and various social conflicts. This fostered a strong sense that the end of the world was near.
  - This eschatological perspective shaped his understanding of contemporary events, including wars, as signs of the approaching apocalypse.
  - This feeling of the end times being near, intensified the importance of dealing with the current threats to the christian world.
- **"Two Kingdoms" Doctrine:**
  - Luther's "two kingdoms" doctrine distinguished between the spiritual kingdom (governed by God) and the earthly kingdom (governed by secular authorities).
  - He believed that God ordained secular authorities to maintain order and punish evil in the earthly kingdom.
  - Therefore, he viewed war as a legitimate tool for secular rulers to uphold justice and protect their people.
  - This doctrine allowed for him to seperate his personal feelings as a christian, from the duties of the secular leaders.
- **The Threat of the Ottoman Empire:**
  - The Ottoman Empire's expansion posed a significant threat to Europe during Luther's time.
  - He interpreted this threat through an eschatological lens, viewing the Turks as a scourge from God, perhaps even connected to biblical prophecies.
  - This led him to advocate for resistance against the Ottoman advance, seeing it as a defense of Christendom.
  - He saw the turks as a tool of Gods wrath, and used that belief to justify war against them.
- **Just War Concepts:**
  - While Luther emphasized the importance of peace, he also recognized that war could be necessary in certain circumstances.
  - His views aligned with elements of the just war tradition, emphasizing the importance of legitimate authority, just cause, and right intention.
  - His eschatological views helped to define what he saw as a "just cause" in the context of the end times.

In essence, Luther's eschatology provided a framework for understanding war as a reality of a fallen world, a tool for secular authorities, and sometimes, a necessary defense against perceived eschatological threats.